

Preliminary Amendment  
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Serial No. 09/981,286  
Filed: October 15, 2001  
For: *DRUG DISCOVERY METHODS*

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comprising Xaa<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is from about 5 to about 21, and each Xaa is independently a random amino acid, and wherein amino acids 119-275 of the VEE virus capsid polypeptide are amino acids 1-156 of SEQ ID NO:1;

exposing the cell to a pathogen or a toxin; and

determining whether the polypeptide prevents cell death, comprising:

incubating the cell under conditions such that the pathogen or the toxin kills a cell that does not comprise a polypeptide that prevents cell death after exposure to a pathogen or a toxin, wherein the presence of a cell that proliferates indicates the polypeptide prevents cell death after exposure to a pathogen or a toxin.